

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-15 and 18-24 are active in this application. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 15 is found in Claims 3 and 17. Support for Claim 23 is found at page 2, lines 20-24. Support for Claim 24 is found in the specification on page 3, lines 23-25. No new matter is added by these amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claimed invention was not described or suggested by the prior art cited when taken alone or in the various combinations set forth in the Office Action. Specifically, the cited prior art does not describe the claimed laser sintering powder comprising at least one polyamide which is one of nylon-6, 12, nylon-11, nylon-12 or mixtures of these; and titanium dioxide. Further, the cited prior art does not describe the processes for preparing a sintering powder (see Claim 12), producing moldings by selectively laser sintering this powder (see Claim 14), a molding produced from the powder (see Claim 15), or a method of lowering sensitivity to thermal stress in a molding using such a powder in the preparation of a molding (Claim 23).

Rather, Wolvers (U.S. Patent No. 3,910,861) describes a process for preparing powdery polyamides. In one of the examples, Wolvers (col. 8, Example IX) described polyamide combined with 1.1% by weight of titanium dioxide. However, nowhere does Wolvers not describe a laser sintering powder having nylon-6, 12, nylon-11, nylon-12 or mixtures of these as the polyamide combined with titanium dioxide. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Wolvers should be withdrawn.

Similarly, the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over FR 1545209 should also be withdrawn

because this reference does not describe a sintering powder with nylon-6, 12, nylon-11, nylon-12 or mixtures of these combined with titanium dioxide as claimed.

As these two publications separately do not describe the claimed laser sintering powder, the combination of these publications cannot be used to reject Claims 8, 11, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection in view of FR 1545209 in view of Wolvers is requested.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Wolvers, Weber and FR 1545209, is also untenable because this combination of publications does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, as noted above both Wolvers and FR 154209 do not describe or suggest the combination of a nylon-6, 12, nylon-11, nylon-12 or mixtures of these combined with titanium dioxide. Weber describes a partly crystalline polyamide comprising styrene or substituted styrenes which may contain additives such as titanium dioxides in amounts of up to 2% by weight (col. 8, lines 10-14) but does not describe nylon-6, 12, nylon-11, nylon-12 or mixtures of these combined with titanium dioxide. Therefore, the combination of publications do not describe or suggest all of the elements of the invention as claimed herein and as such the combination of these publications cannot be used to sustain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20 and 22.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-14, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is traversed for the following reasons.

Although it is believed that Claim 1 was clear on its face, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the laser sintering powder comprises two components (a) at least one polyamide and (b) titanium dioxide. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 9 has been amended to specify that the sintering powder further comprises an additional auxiliary or filler.

Auxiliaries and fillers are described in the specification on page 4, lines 19-27. With respect to the term "flow aid" in Claim 10, this term is an art recognized term, examples of which are also described on page 4. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended for clarity. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

Applicants also request allowance of this application. Early notice of such allowance is requested.

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